

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS JJFEENEY:BB

APPROVED BY S/PRS FREDERICK Z. BROWN

S/S - J. HOGANSON

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P 060015Z AUG 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 194946 TOSEC 200078

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS - BROWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: NYTIMES 8/5 STORY ON HAK/VERNON JORDAN TALKS -

HEREWITH FULL TEXT OF NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF AUGUST 5
BY THOMAS A. JOHNSON:

BOSTON, AUG. 4---

VERNON E. JORDAN, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL
URBAN LEAGUE, SAID TODAY THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH SECRETARY
OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IN SEPTEMBER TO SUGGEST WAYS
IN WHICH THE NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION COULD HELP
IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RECRUITMENT AND UPGRADING OF
BLACKS AND OTHER MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS.

MR. JORDAN SAID HE WOULD TRY TO HELP IDENTIFY MINORITY
GROUP MEMBERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN STATE DEPARTMENT
CAREERS. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE
ENFORCEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICIES.

THE FORTHCOMING TALKS GREW OUT OF A MONDAY NIGHT APPEAR-
ANCE HERE BY MR. KISSINGER AT THE URBAN LEAGUE'S 66TH
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ANNUAL CONFERENCE. MR. KISSINGER ANGERED THE BLACK

AUDIENCE IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT BLACKS AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

MR. KISSINGER SAID ONE REASON THE STATE DEPARTMENT LAGGED BEHIND OTHER AGENCIES IN BLACK RECRUITING WAS THE "COMPLICATED" EXAMINATIONS AND THE DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING QUALIFIED BLACKS. HE ALSO SAID, IN A VOICE THAT WAS TINGED WITH ANGER, THAT HE DID NOT LOOK TO SEE IF A PROSPECTIVE AMBASSADOR WAS BLACK OR WHITE BEFORE ASSIGNING HIM TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

THE KISSINGER APPEARANCE CAUSED MIXED FEELINGS AMONG THE MORE THAN 8,000 DELEGATES AND VISITORS TO THE FOUR-DAY MEETING, WHICH ENDS TODAY.

THE GROUP WAS MOSTLY SUPPORTIVE OF MR. KISSINGER'S OUTLINING OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY REGARDING AFRICA, WHICH INCLUDES AIDING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK AFRICA AND URGING AN END TO APARTHEID AND A START ON BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

HOWEVER, THE AUDIENCE, WHICH CONSISTED MOSTLY OF BLACK PROFESSIONALS, WAS VIVIDLY AND AUDIBLY AFFECTED BY KISSINGER RESPONSES THAT SOME BLACKS SAID REMINDED THEM OF WHITE EXECUTIVES' EXCUSES FOR NOT HIRING BLACKS 20 YEARS AGO.

SEVERAL URBAN LEAGUE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MR. JORDAN, ATTRIBUTED THE UNPOPULAR KISSINGER REPLIES TO "A LACK OF SENSITIVITY" AND A "LACK OF SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE" OF BLACK AMERICA.

STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES HAVE SAID THAT WHILE MR. KISSINGER HAS TRIED TO BRING MORE BLACKS AND WOMEN INTO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE PROCESS HAS BEEN SLOWED BY SOME PERSONS IN THE "MIDDLE MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP" WHO TAKE THE ATTITUDE THAT, AS ONE INFORMED SOURCE PUT IT, "SECRETARIES COME AND GO BUT WE REMAIN HERE FOREVER."

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STATE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS SHOW THAT SINCE 1949, 23 BLACKS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED AMBASSADORS AND THAT ALL BUT FIVE WERE ASSIGNED TO BLACK AFRICA OR TO THE CARIBBEAN. THE DEPARTMENT HAS 12,247 EMPLOYEES, 1,585 OF WHICH ARE BLACK. OF THE 5,799 FEDERAL SERVICE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN PROFESSIONAL RANKS, 262 ARE BLACK.

MR. KISSINGER DIRECTED THE DEPARTMENT IN 1975 TO INCREASE

ITS RECRUITMENT OF MINORITIES AND WOMEN. THIS HAS
RESULTED IN A PROGRAM TO HIRE 20 MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS
AND WOMEN A YEAR AT PROFESSIONAL LEVELS.
ALSO TODAY, THE LEAGUE'S DELEGATE ASSEMBLY OF BOARD MEM-
BERS AND STAFF PEOPLE ADOPTED A 10-POINT "STATEMENT OF
CONCERN" OF ITEMS THAT WILL BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY BY THE
LEAGUE'S 105 NATIONWIDE BRANCHES IN THE COMING YEAR.

THESE CONCERNS INCLUDE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AND VOTER
REGISTRATION DRIVES, CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS, ECONOMIC
HELP FOR MINORITY BUSINESSMEN, EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS,
EFFORTS TO INCREASE REVENUE SHARING FOR URBAN AREAS,
BETTER HEALTH CARE, MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF TAX
MONEY FOR EDUCATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF SCHOOL INTEGRATION
LAWS. END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, EMPLOYMENT, MEETINGS, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE194946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760302-0962
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760877/aaaacouz.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NYTIMES 8/5 STORY ON HAK/VERNON JORDAN TALKS - HERewith FULL TEXT OF NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF AUGUST 5 BY THOMAS A. JOHNSON
TAGS: SOPN, US, NEW YORK TIMES, NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (JORDAN, VERNON E JR)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006